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## The President's Message



As I begin this article, I can't help but think how fast this year seems to be passing by. A lot has happened since our last newsletter and 2010 is shaping up to be another great year for our society. On June 11, we held our quarterly meeting which had the highest attendance for a June meeting so far. Everyone seems to be enjoying the hospitality that has been so generously sponsored for us the night before our meetings. The food, drinks and opportunity to spend time with our members and business partners has been outstanding. We are looking forward to our next quarterly meeting in September and we are hoping for another great turnout.

This year, we sent five board members to the ASHE Annual Conference in Tampa. While there, GaSHE was awarded the Platinum Level of Affiliation Award for the second year in a row. This really shows that all of our hard work is paying off and we are honored to receive it. We provide top notch education at our meetings and our attendance and membership is at an all time high. Let's keep it up and hopefully we will have another banner year.

I am sorry to announce that Mike Waldal has resigned as Secretary of our society. He feels that his large workload will prevent him from dedicating the time necessary to fulfill his duties and he does not want the society to suffer because of it. He has done a great job and he will be missed. Thank you, Mike, for all your hard work and we wish you all the best. I have appointed Tripp Stephens to finish out Mike's term and he has graciously accepted.

Congratulations to Mike Mobley on his retirement from Candler/St. Joseph's Hospital after a fourteen year career as Manager of Plant Operations. Mike is now devoting his time to fishing and golf. I have golfed with Mike and I hope he is a better fisherman! I am just kidding, Mike, and on behalf of GaSHE, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Congratulations are also due Zack Holt and the whole Piedmont Newnan family on the groundbreaking of their new facility. It will be a 136 bed facility in 9 stories and 362,000 square feet. Stay tuned for updates.

I hope you are all enjoying our newsletter. If you would like to submit an article, or would like to sponsor a newsletter, please let us know. We are always interested in what our members and business partners have to say and we will try to accommodate your requests.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming meeting December 10. Also, remember that we will be hosting the hospitality suites on the Thursday nights prior to these date. We always have a great time and receive quality education. I hope you will all attend. Please contact our Ambassador Task Force representatives for more information.

If you have not yet become a member of our society, I encourage you check out the things we offer to our members. We are dedicated to helping you be better equipped to excel in your career and I hope you will take advantage of all we have to offer you.

For more information on our upcoming meetings and agendas, please check out our website at [www.gashe.org](http://www.gashe.org). If we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

President  
Georgia Society for Healthcare Engineers

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## Engineer Spotlight

Steve Jordan  
Piedmont Hospital



Congratulations to Steve Jordan, Director of Safety at Piedmont Hospital who recently was recognized as the “Engineer of the Year” by the Board of Directors of the Georgia Society for Hospital Engineers (GSHE) for 2010 at the society’s annual meeting and banquet.

Steve was recognized for outstanding performance, community service and organizational support, which exemplify the high personal and professional standards of GSHE.

Steve has served on the board of directors for both the GSHE and our very own GaSHE. Steve was a past president of GaSHE in 2008 and is currently serving as president of GSHE.

Steve’s responsibilities at Piedmont Hospital include Chairman of the Environment of Care Committee, the Chairman of the Emergency Management Committee and Chairman of the Fulton County LEPC Committee.

## Regulatory & Compliance Updates

Joint Commissions Issues ALERT ON VIOLENCE in Health Facilities  
[www.jointcommission.org/SentinelEvents/SentinelEventAlert/sea\\_45.htm](http://www.jointcommission.org/SentinelEvents/SentinelEventAlert/sea_45.htm)

A Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert issued last month warns that health care facilities today are being confronted with steadily increasing rates of crime, including assault, rape and murder. The alert urges greater attention to the issue of violence and to controlling access to facilities to protect patients, staff and visitors, noting that assault, rape and homicide are consistently in the top 10 types of serious events reported to The Joint Commission.

SOURCE: HEALTH FACILITIES MANAGEMENT JULY 2010 - VOL 23 ISSUE 7

## Embracing Sustainable Practices

Top 10 Energy Management Initiatives Being Implemented to Reduce Energy Costs

	Plan to implement in the next 24 months	Implemented in the last 24 months
Preventive maintenance plans	80%	12%
Transition to electronic ballast and energy-efficient lamps (T8 or T5)	74%	16%
Install LED exit signs	69%	15%
Install occupancy sensors or timers to reduce use of lighting in unoccupied and appropriate areas (e.g., public restrooms)	57%	25%
Technology upgrades for plant equipment	55%	29%
Upgrade building control and automation systems	53%	28%
Energy conservation program	53%	25%
Upgrade central heating / cooling systems	46%	29%
Upgrade distributed heating / cooling systems	39%	30%
Commission or retro-commission buildings (audit to review performance of building energy systems)	35%	26%

SOURCE: HEALTH FACILITIES MANAGEMENT / ASHE / ASHES 2010 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS SURVEY



St. Joseph's/Candler is rich in history and heritage. Its anchor institutions, St. Joseph's Hospital and Candler Hospital, are two of the oldest continuously operating hospitals in the nation. As such, both have been a part of the Savannah landscape and culture for a combined history of more than 330 years.

St. Joseph's Hospital began in 1875 when the Sisters of Mercy took over the operations of the Forest City Marine Hospital in what is now the historic district. Now, located on Savannah's south side, St. Joseph's Hospital is home to some of the most breakthrough medical technology and innovations. Specialty services at St. Joseph's include The Heart Hospital, The Institute for Advanced Bone and Joint Surgery and the Institute of Neurosciences, each offering unsurpassed space-age technology and expert clinical care.

Candler Hospital is Georgia's first hospital (first chartered in 1804) and the second oldest continuously operating hospital in the United States. Located in Savannah's Midtown and affiliated with the Methodist Church, Candler has been long recognized as offering the finest in primary care, outpatient services, and women's and children's services. Candler is home to the Mary Telfair Women's Hospital and the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion, both renowned medical facilities offering some of the most advanced patient services in the country.

## Business Partner Spotlight



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We would like to thank our GaSHE Clients for the continued support!

Columbus Regional Healthcare Systems, Doctors Hospital of Columbus, Floyd Medical Center, Gwinnett Medical Center, Meadows Regional Medical Center, Medical Center of Central Georgia, Medical College of Georgia, Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Piedmont Fayette Hospital, Piedmont Newnan Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, Sumter Regional Hospital, Tanner Medical Center, Tift Regional Medical Center and West Georgia Medical Center

## Healthcare Health Hazards - Part 1

By Matthew S. Parker, MS, CIH, CSP, ARM - ATC Associates

*The following article, which discusses many of the health hazards common among hospitals, is Part I of a multi-part series that will be presented in the next few GaSHE newsletter issues.*

Hospitals are wonderful concentrations of scientific disciplines that work together to diagnose, treat, heal, and cure a myriad of injuries and illnesses. Unfortunately, this environment can expose the personnel providing these services to some health hazards of their own. We have all heard about the infectious diseases (tuberculosis, etc) and blood-borne pathogens (HIV, HBV, etc); but there are many more that are not patient related.

Industrial Hygiene is the science and art engaged in the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, and control of these other workplace health hazards. In the healthcare setting these include, but are not limited to: ethylene oxide, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, waste anesthetic gases, anti-neoplastic drugs, mercury, latex allergy, and many more.

Ethylene Oxide (EtO) is used within central supply as a sterilant for items that cannot be exposed to steam sterilization. Exposure usually results from improper aeration of the ethylene oxide chamber after the sterilizing process or poor gas-line connections. Most hospitals concentrate their worry about EtO to the central sterilization area. But it can also occur during off-gassing of sterilized items in outpatient surgery clinics, cardiac catheterization laboratories, operating rooms, dental labs, autopsy labs and other areas. Periodic sampling in these other areas can help identify whether your EtO programs should be wider.

Formaldehyde is used as a fixative and is commonly found in most laboratories and the morgue. Acute exposure to liquid and vapors can cause eye and respiratory irritation, while chronic exposure can cause laryngitis, bronchial pneumonia, and conjunctivitis. But most importantly, formaldehyde is a suspected carcinogen. OSHA requires employers limit exposures to 0.75 ppm as an 8-hour time weighted average. Since exposures are directly related to concentration of the solution, the duration of exposure, and the frequency of the task all formaldehyde usage should be sampled occasionally.

Glutaraldehyde is used to disinfect heat-sensitive medical equipment in products such as Cidex, Sporicidin, and others. Glutaraldehyde is also used as a tissue fixative in histology and pathology labs and as a hardening agent in the development of x-rays. It can irritate the mucous membranes and acts as a sensitizer. This means some workers will have strong reactions even if they are exposed to only small amounts. Workers may get sudden asthma attacks with difficult breathing, wheezing, coughing, and tightness in the chest. OSHA does not regulate this chemical but the recommended limit of 0.05 ppm is a ceiling value that should not be exceeded during any part of the work shift.



# Georgia Society for Healthcare Engineers Quarterly Meeting Agenda

## Calendar of Events

### Quarterly Meetings

December 10th, 2010\*

- Hospitality Suite December 9, 2010 - White Elephant Holiday Exchange

### Save the Date:

Annual Meeting: March 9-11 2011

- March 9th - Golf Tournament
- March 10th - Trade Show
- March 11th - Education / Business Meeting

### Coming Soon:

New sponsorship opportunities for The Annual Meeting and Exhibit

### Friday, December 10, 2010

- 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. – Deanna Squires, Metro Power – “Energy Management”.
- 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – Ted N. Kipreos, Healthcare Specialist, ASSA ABLOY DSS of Georgia – “Door Opening Solutions Security, Safety and Convenience”.
- 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Terry Mayes, Director of Healthcare Security, Sizemore Security – “Joint Commissions Sentinel Event on Workplace Violence”.
- 11:30 a.m. to Noon – Chapter Meeting /Gift Exchange
- Noon – Lunch provided by Chapter

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